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# McDaniel, Paul William, 1916-2004 (MSS 515)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
 Department of Library Special Collections  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 515     McDANIEL, Paul William, 1916-2004**

1 box. 16 folders. 471 items. 1927-2005. Originals, photocopies, and photographs

2005.153.1

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Paul William McDaniel was born in Henderson County, Kentucky on 1 January 1916. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Western Kentucky University (WKU) in 1936. He spent a fifth year teaching chemistry classes and studying physics and mathematics at WKU. A member of the first senior ROTC graduating class in 1936 at Western, he was commissioned as second lieutenant in the U.S. Army Chemical Warfare Service. McDaniel attended graduate school at Indianan University where he received his master's in physics in 1938 and doctorate in nuclear physics in 1941. He joined the physics faculty of Auburn University in 1941 but took an emergency leave of absence to join uranium research with Dr. Arthur Compton at the University of Chicago. He served for three years as a chemical officer in Australia during World War II.

He returned to the United States in 1945 and was sent to the headquarters of the Manhattan Engineer District at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the agency responsible for development of the atomic bomb. After his discharge, McDaniel accepted a senior scientist position at Oak Ridge where he remained until Congress created the Atomic Energy Commission. In 1947, McDaniel joined the AEC's Division of Research. He served as deputy director from 1950 to 1960 and was director from 1960 to 1972. As director of research, he was responsible for supervising the atomic energy research programs at the national laboratories at Oak Ridge, Brookhaven, Argonne, Los Alamos, Berkeley, and Livermore.

After his retirement from the AEC, McDaniel was appointed president of the Argonne Universities Association, one of the organizations responsible for the management of the Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. He retired from the position in 1975. McDaniel participated in numerous international conferences on atomic energy and received numerous honors, including the U.S. Civil Service's Arthur F. Fleming Award for outstanding service.

McDaniel died on 31 May 2004. He and his wife, Kathryn, had no children.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists mainly of articles, photographs, awards, and other documents related to Paul McDaniel. Included is a copy of the Arthur F. Fleming Award (Folder 2), several

letters of nomination and a document labeling him as a charter member of the American Nuclear Society. McDaniel kept a journal from 1941-1945 (Folder 4) during World War II detailing his life in Australia serving as a chemical officer. Also included are typescripts of lectures given at Queensland University (Folder 5) alongside photos used during the lectures. Folder 6 contains a copy of the Congressional Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act of 1946, alongside a conference report of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act. A copy of a letter from Henry Kissinger (Folder 12) regarding the matter of inviting scientists from the Peoples Republic of China to participate in a dedication event of the Batavia proton synchrotron. Folder 13 is about Howard Curtis Hornsby Jr.; McDaniel was very interested in Hornsby and helped him fulfill his dream of becoming a scientist; it contains articles about his life and correspondence with McDaniel. Folder 14 contains forms McDaniel filled out for retirement, and a typescript he wrote about his views of what the word retirement means. Folder 16 contains photographs of him throughout the years alongside a few photos he took at Melbourne University.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>McDANIEL, Paul William</b>	<b>1927-2005</b>	<b>471 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory	1961; 2004-2005	4 items
Folder 2	Awards	1927-1998	24 items
Folder 3	Military records	1936-1955	17 items
Folder 4	Journal kept while serving in WWII in Australia as a chemical officer	Dec. 7, 1941- June 23, 1945	1 item
.Folder 5	Lectures given in Brisbane, Queensland and associated correspondence	1943-1944	14 items
Folder 6	Congressional Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act of 1946	1949?-1956	5 items
Folder 7	Materials chiefly about McDaniel receiving one of the 1959 Career Service Awards	1958-1959	59 items
Folder 8	Congratulatory letters on appointment as director of U.S. Atomic Energy's Division of Research	1960	74 items.
Folder 9	Statements made in Congressional meetings	1960-1962	2 items
Folder 10	Correspondence – Business	1941-1976	84 items
Folder 11	Correspondence – Business	1971	50 items.

Folder 12	Correspondence – Business	1972-1997	52 items
Folder 13	Materials about youth scientist Howard Curtis Hornsby, Jr.	1970	9 items
Folder 14	Personal and retirement data	1947-1972	4 items
Folder 15	Published articles, newspaper clippings etc.	1939-1966	28 items
Folder 16	Photos	1940-1962	44 items

## BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS 515	McDANIEL, Paul William, 1916-2004	1927-2005
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Writings and awards of Paul William McDaniel, nuclear physicist and graduate of Western Kentucky University. Includes typescripts of lectures delivered at Queensland University, a journal he kept while serving in World War II, and a copy of his Arthur F. Fleming Award. Also includes many letters of congratulations to him and a copy of the Atomic Energy Act of 1946.

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## SUBJECT ANALYTICS

Atomic Energy Act, 1946 B1,F6  
Atomic energy – Relating to B1,F8-9  
Bikini Island – Photo B1,F15  
Certificates B1,F2, F8  
Diaries, 1941-1945 – McDaniel, John William, 1916-2004 B1,F4  
Gomberg, Henry Jacob, 1918-1995 B1,F11  
Hornsby, Howard Curtis, Jr. – Correspondence B1,F13  
Illustrations B1, F15  
Kissinger, Henry Alfred, b. 1923 B1,F12  
Nuclear physicists  
University of Queensland (Brisbane, Australia) – Relating to, 1943-1944 B1,F5  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Australia – Relating to B1,F3-4  
World War II, 1939-1945 – Soldiers from – Henderson County B1,F3-4

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